Sue Grant is the Editor of Amiga Shopper. She has worked in publishing for over 13 years and has been at Future Publishing for the past three of them, firstly as Production Editor of Super Play, then as Deputy Editor of Amiga Format.

I've only just packed away my bikini and suncream and it's December already. Where did Autumn disappear to?

Dear Subscriber,

You may have guessed by now, because of the early on-sale date of this December magazine and the previous couple of issues, that we have a Christmas issue in store for you too. That means that you get 13 issues of your favourite serious Amiga magazine every year. And all of them with two feature-packed Coverdisks – three in your case, as a subscriber.

And have we got a great issue for you this month – we are particularly proud that we've managed to cram over 5Mb of carefully-chosen programs and utilities on to our two Coverdisks, and that's not including the great stuff on your exclusive Subscriber's disk. And then inside the issue we have a feature on networking with your Amiga – John Kennedy has been experimenting in this area for months and brings you his findings.

We thought it was about time we had a look at word processing packages too – we've included Wordworth 4SE in the feature which is the version bundled in the Amiga Magic software pack with the new machines. Wordworth 4 will be released in its own right nearer to Christmas, so we'll be looking at that later on. Another installment of Mojo's tutorial will make 3D fans happy, plus we have all our usual reviews and tutorials to keep you busy.

Let us know what you think of the new style of our Public Domain section, by the way – if you have any ideas of what else to put in, then let us know. David is always on the look out for new and original programs to include too.

Jonathan Anderson and some of his colleagues from Amiga Technologies are coming down to Bath to see the Amiga mags soon – we are looking forward to showing them around the offices. I'll report on their visit in our Christmas issue – maybe we'll have some pictures of them meeting the teams!

Meanwhile, dig in to the issue and we'll see you next month. Remember, you only have 60 shopping days until Christmas. Yeurch!
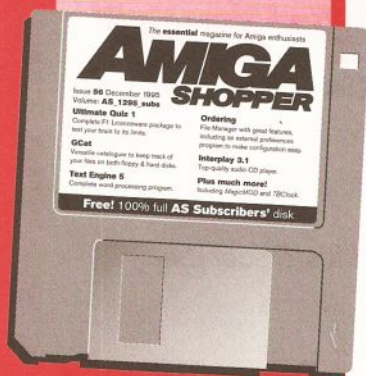
Sue Grant,
Editor.

Subscribersdisk

It's raining, it's pouring, your Amiga is snoring. Well, here comes its wake-up call. David introduces this month's alarmingly good Subscribers' disk.

- **Ultimate Quiz 1**
- **GCat**
- **Text Engine 5**
- **Ordering**
- **Interplay 3.1**
- **MagicMOD**
- **TBClock**
- **F1 Guide**
- **4 music modules**
- **Clipart**
- **Bitmap Fonts**

future PUBLISHING

This month's Subscribers' disk has another 2.5Mb of programs and extras. There's a full Licenceware product for starters – exclusive to Amiga Shopper subscribers – all here and all free.

I've had a few letters from subscribers who haven't managed to de-archive some of our earlier disks. The answer is very simple. Boot the Subscribers' disk. All the de-archiving is as automatic as possible, but you do need to boot the disk for the procedure to be set up. Anyway, enough burble, let's get on with it.

Ultimate Quiz 1

This was a tough call. AS doesn't cover games, but when we found this program and wangled a deal so that we could give it all away free, we decided to go for it. Ultimate Quiz 1 is a full F1 Licenceware package with 1,000 questions split into several categories, from General Knowledge to Big Movies and from Red Dwarf to Star Trek. It's more a brain drainer than a game.

To pit your grey matter against the Amiga, just double-click on the Quiz.exe icon. If you're playing on an unaccelerated A500+, don't worry if it doesn't appear to do anything for a few seconds after the disk finishes. The screen then goes black and The Quiz appears. Click the left mouse button to move the screens. Then choose the category you want to try; the questions load and you can start. Answering the questions is simple (knowing the answers is harder!) – choose your answer and select the letter that represents it with the mouse. Remember that there's a time limit for questions and you've only got a certain number of credits per game. Enjoy!

GCat

Keeping track of disks isn't easy. Even if your collection featured only the disks from AS (not likely, I know), you'd soon have no idea where all the programs were. This is where disk cataloguing programs help. GCat caught my eye because it can be used to catalogue many different drives, not just df0:. This means that you can quickly build up a catalogue of your hard drive. So, say you stored the AS disks in dh1:AS/, you could create a full listing that is easy to browse and quick to update. The interface is bare, but functional. Don't be deceived by looks; this program is very useful.

Text Engine 5

This month's word processing feature has coincided nicely with the release of Text Engine 5. This is a fully-featured WP, it contains everything that you'd expect, including a dictionary. Simply load the program and you can start typing. It's very intuitive, so you shouldn't have any trouble using it. To check the spelling, first load the dictionary and then check the document. If it finds a word it doesn't know, it queries it. You can edit the dictionary if you want to include the word for future purposes. If there are no mistakes, you'll be returned directly to typing mode.

There are full documents for this program, which guide you through all the features. You should note that although the program is complete and un-crippled, it is still Shareware. The author asks a modest sum in return for it. Please register if you keep the program.

Ordering

File managers, couldn't live without 'em. Well, there are more and more appearing, which means you can choose the one that suits you best. This one contains an external preferences program (very à la DOpus), which makes configuring the look and operation of the program very easy, even down to altering the button functions.

As you'd expect the screen has two areas, with one side to be used as source and the other as destination. You can choose from any device for either of these. The buttons above the split screen define the actions and there are also some menus for extra functions such as formatting disks. It's a very competent program.

And the rest...

That's not the half of it, because there's loads of other programs on this disk too. **Interplay 3.1** is an excellent audio CD player that works with any CD-ROM that uses the cd.device. If that's set up as standard (as it is with most drives), then all you have to do is load the program, which has everything including disc cataloguing. In keeping with the musical theme, there's **MagicMOD**, a music module player. To use it, make sure you install the libraries that are included. There are also **four modules** for you to play and add to your collection.

TBClock is a small clock that sits itself in the titlebar of your screens and can be configured to include different information, such as the day and date. **F1 Guide** is something of a novelty, an AmigaGuide which contains all the information you'd want about Formula One racing, including up to date statistics. Rather unusual, but one for the motoring fans. To put the icing on the cake, we've topped off the WP vein with a selection of **clipart** and **fonts**.

A quick note about a minor bug in ExtraInfo, which was on last month's Subs disk:

1. A conflict between BGUI and SleepingPointers sometimes causes the machine to lock up when using BGUI "pop-up" cycle gadgets. This has nothing to do with ExtraInfo.

2. In ExtraInfo, the "All/One" button on the tooltypes page does nothing under V38 of the BGUI library. It requires V39, which is due for release shortly. Until then, you can still select multiple tooltypes using the mouse by holding down the shift key. ∎